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Message Text

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E. O.: 11652: N/ A
TAGS: EGEN, OECD
SUBJ: OECD MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING, JUNE 6-8

1. SUMMARY: UNDER OTHER BUSINESS IN COUNCIL APRIL 10, SECGEN VAN LENNEP MADE BRIEF ORAL PRESENTATION OF HIS PRELIMINARY IDEAS FOR AGENDA FOR JUNE 6-8 MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING. TWO PRINCIPAL SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS WOULD BE (A) ECONOMIC SITUATION IN MEMBER COUNTRIES, AND (B) ENERGY POLICY. A THIRD ITEM MIGHT BE ADDED TO INFORM MINISTERS BRIEFLY OF OTHER IMPORTANT ONGOING WORK INCLUDING PROGRESS REPORT ON XCSS. COUNCIL AGREED RESUME DISCUSSION THIS SUB-JECT ON BASIS VAN LENNEP' S SUGGESTIONS APRIL 18. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE FOR APRIL 18 COUNCIL MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. IN OPENING DISCUSSION, VAN LENNEP EXPRESSED VIEW THAT MINISTERS WOULD WANT TWO TYPES OF SUBJECTS REFLECTED ON AGENDA: (A) POLICY ISSUES RIPE FOR MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION WHICH COULD LEAD TO CONCLUSIONS OR RECOMMENDATIONS, AND (B) REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES OF ORGANIZATION WITH A VIEW TO PROVIDING GUIDANCE FOR
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FUTURE WORK. IN HIS VIEW, IT WOULD PREFERABLE TO CONCENTRATE POLICY DISCUSSION ON SMALL NUMBER OF IMPORTANT ISSUES TO FACILITATE FULL AND PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSION RATHER THAN ATTEMPT DISCUSS LONG LIST OF SUBJECTS. IN THIS LIGHT, HE SUGGESTED ON PRELIMINARY BASIS THAT MAJOR POLICY ITEMS BE CONFINED TO TWO, I. E. TRADITIONAL ITEM, ECONOMIC SITUATION IN MEMBER COUNTRIES, AND ENERGY POLICY.

3. UNDER FIRST ITEM, MINISTERS COULD PRESENT VIEWS ON CURRENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE, CONSIDER APPROPRIATENESS OF PRESENT POLICIES, AND DISCUSS WHAT POLICIES SHOULD BE PURSUED IN FUTURE. DISCUSSION WOULD BE BASED ON SECRETARIAT PAPER WHICH COULD BE REVIEWED AND COMMENTED UPON BY EPC AND ITS WORKING PARTIES BEFORE BEING PUT IN FINAL FORM FOR MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION.

4. RE SUGGESTED ITEM ON ENERGY POLICY, VAN LENNEP SAID IT WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT TO SAY NOW WHICH ISSUES MIGHT BE DISCUSSED OR WHAT OUTCOME OF DISCUSSION MIGHT BE. ON PRELIMINARY BASIS, HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR MINISTERS TO REVIEW PROGRESS MADE BY ORGANIZATION IN CARRYING OUT 1972 MINISTERIAL DIRECTIVE CALLING FOR ASSESSMENT OF LONG- TERM ENERGY POLICIES. MINISTERS COULD BE INFORMED HOW OECD HAD DIVIDED ASSESSMENT INTO SHORT AND LONG- TERM ASPECTS AND MIGHT BE ASKED FOR GUIDANCE ON FUTURE WORK. VAN LENNEP NOTED THAT OIL COMMITTEE AND HIGH LEVEL GROUP WOULD BE MEETING IN MAY AND COULD SHAPE THEIR WORK WITH VIEW OF MAKING CONTIRIBUTION TO MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION. HE EMPHASIZED THAT ENERGY POLICY WAS SUBJECT OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE AND SENSITIVITY INVOLVING MEMBER COUNTRY POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH NON- MEMBER COUNTRIES. IN THIS CONTEXT, MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION COULD BE VIEWED AS CONTRIBUTION TO IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH NON- MEMBER COUNTRIES.

5. AS THIRD AGENDA ITEM, VAN LENNEP SUGGESTED MINISTERS BE INFORMED OF, BUT NOT DISCUSS, THE PROGRESS AND PRO- SPECTS OF OTHER WORK IN ORGANIZATION INCLUDING:

(A) WORK UNDERTAKEN BY OECD IN RESPONSE TO 1972 MINISTERIAL DIRECTIVE ON TRADE, MONETARY INVESTMENT, AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OTHER INTER- RELATED ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. IN ADDITION TO

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PRESENTATION BY SECRETARIAT, XCSS CHAIRMAN COULD MAKE ORAL REPORT ON PROGRESS ITS WORK TO DATE AND PERHAPS ASK FURTHER GUIDANCE FOR FUTURE WORK. VAN LENNEP NOTED XCSS WOULD MEET JUNE 5 TO FINALIZE REPORT TO MINISTERS AND MIGHT INCLUDE AS WELL SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE WORK.

(B) QUALITATIVE ASPECTS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH. VAN LENNEP PREFERRED TO 1970 MINISTERIAL DIRECTIVE ON THIS SUBJECT AND SUGGESTED SECRETARIAT REPORT ON PROGRESS OF WORK UNDERTAKEN BY ORGANIZATION TO DATE.

(C) DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION. VAN LENNEP NOTED THAT PROGRESS IN THIS FIELD WAS NOT ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY. HE SAID SECRETARIAT WAS PREPARING A PAPER ON POLICIES OF MEMBER COUNTRIES, NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND POSSIBLY SUGGESTIONS FOR MORE COHERENT DEVELOPMENT POLICIES.

6. IN CONCLUDING HIS PRESENTATION, VAN LENNEP EMPHASIZED THAT FOREGOING WERE PRELIMINARY IDEAS OFFERED FOR MEMBER COUNTRY REFLECTION. HE HOPED MEMBER GOVERNMENTS WOULD GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO HIS SUGGESTIONS AND RESUME DISCUSSION APRIL 18 ON BASIS OF INSTRUCTIONS FROM CAPITALS.
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